

REMARKS

The basis of this response is straightforward. All of the pending claims currently stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over USP 6,864,641 (Dygart) in various combinations with other references. However, in addressing a prior rejection based in part on Dygart '641, Applicants previously submitted a Rule 131 declaration establishing a date of invention prior to the filing date of Dygart '641. (See Response to Official Action and Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.131, dated Oct. 5, 2006) Presumably as a result of that showing, the Examiner withdrew the prior rejection based on Dygart '641. (See Office Action dated November 17, 2006).

Because Applicants previously overcame Dygart '641 based on an earlier established date of invention, it is assumed that the Examiner's application of Dygart '641 to reject the instant claims in the most recent Office Action is erroneous, although apparently inadvertent.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection based on Dygart '641 (in combination with other references) must be withdrawn. In the absence of Dygart '641, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of the instant claims can no longer stand, and the application must be allowed.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was submitted on September 28, 2007, citing two new references. Applicants kindly request that the

Examiner consider the information cited therein in connection with the instant application.

Request for Allowance

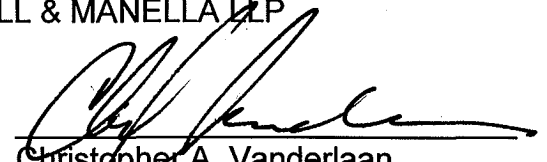
It is believed that the instant application is in condition for final allowance, and, accordingly, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. Nevertheless, if any unresolved issue remains, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to discuss those issues so that the Notice of Allowance can be mailed at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

IRELL & MANELLA LLP

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